

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE

SUBJECT: ECE- POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF SECRETARIAT

REF: USUN 769, GENEVA 1680, STATE 060838

1. STANOVNIK INFORMED OF NEGATIVE US REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR RELOCATION OF ECE SECRETARIAT TO VIENNA. HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY VERY PLEASED WITH THIS DECISION WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE COMMUNICATED FORCEFULLY TO OTHER MEMBERS. HE ADDED THAT HE MUST TAKE A VERY CAUTIOUS APPROACH WITHIN THE UN SECRETARIAT AND CANNOT BE AS OPEN AND FRANK IN PUBLIC AS HE HAS BEEN WITH US.

2. STANOVNIK SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF YUGOSLAVIA HAD TAKEN A FIRM NEGATIVE LINE ON THIS QUESTION DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION. THE YUGOSLAVS WANT TO MAINTAIN CONCENTRATED REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA ON ECE, UNCTAD AND GATT QUESTIONS AND NOT BE FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF COORDINATION OF MISSIONS OPERATING IN GENEVA AND IN VIENNA. THE YUGOSLAVS ALSO FEEL THAT NON-ECE LDCS HAVE A STAKE IN RETAINING ECE IN GENEVA SINCE THEY ARE WELL REPRESENTED HERE AND FEEL THEY MAY DERIVE ADVANTAGE FROM CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF ECE. STANOVNIK UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOY WILL BE INSTRUCTING ITS GENEVA MISSION TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN TO OTHER MISSIONS.

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3. STANOVNIK ALSO REPORTS THAT A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE GDR EXPRESSED DOUBTS TO HIM CONCERNING RELOCATION OF ECE USING MUCH OF SAME ARGUMENTATION AS YUGOSLAVS. HE NOW BELIEVES THAT EASTERN DELS ARE DIVIDED ON THIS QUESTION AND MAY NOT TAKE A STRONG POSITION.

COMMENT: WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THIS MISSION AND USUN BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE US POSITION KNOWN TO OTHER DELEGATIONS. IF OUR VIEWS ARE WIDELY SHARED, AN EARLY APPROACH COULD BE MADE TO THE SYG TO REINFORCE POSITION CONVEYED TO DAVIDSON. IT WOULD BE WISE TO HEAD OFF A POSSIBLE PROPOSAL BY THE SYG IN ORDER TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT AND POTENTIAL BUILD-UP OF PRESSURE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED MOVE. DALE

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